

**House File 2459 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2459  
BY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 660)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act establishing a watershed planning advisory council.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 466B.10 Watershed planning advisory  
2 council.

3 1. A watershed planning advisory council is established  
4 for purposes of assembling a diverse group of stakeholders  
5 to review research and make recommendations to various state  
6 entities regarding methods to protect water resources in the  
7 state, assure an adequate supply of water, mitigate and prevent  
8 floods, and coordinate the management of those resources in  
9 a sustainable, fiscally responsible, and environmentally  
10 responsible manner. The advisory council may seek input  
11 from councils of governments or other organizations in the  
12 development of its recommendations. The advisory council shall  
13 meet once a year and at other times as deemed necessary to  
14 meet the requirements of this section. The advisory council  
15 may appoint a task force to assist the advisory council in  
16 completing its duties.

17 2. The watershed planning advisory council shall consist of  
18 all of the following members:

19 a. The voting members of the advisory council shall include  
20 all of the following:

21 (1) One member selected by the Iowa association of municipal  
22 utilities.

23 (2) One member selected by the Iowa league of cities.

24 (3) One member selected by the Iowa association of business  
25 and industry.

26 (4) One member selected by the Iowa water pollution control  
27 association.

28 (5) One member selected by the Iowa rural water association.

29 (6) One member selected by growing green communities.

30 (7) One member selected by the Iowa environmental council.

31 (8) One member selected by the Iowa farm bureau federation.

32 (9) One member selected by the Iowa corn growers  
33 association.

34 (10) One member selected by the Iowa soybean association.

35 (11) One member selected by the Iowa pork producers council.

1 (12) One member selected by the soil and water conservation  
2 districts of Iowa.

3 (13) One person representing the department of agriculture  
4 and land stewardship selected by the secretary of agriculture.

5 (14) One person representing the department of natural  
6 resources selected by the director.

7 (15) Two members selected by the Iowa conservation  
8 alliance.

9 *b.* The nonvoting members of the advisory council shall  
10 include all of the following:

11 (1) Two members of the senate. One senator shall be  
12 appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one senator  
13 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

14 (2) Two members of the house of representatives. One  
15 member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives and one member shall be appointed by the  
17 minority leader of the house of representatives.

18 3. By December 1 of each year, the watershed planning  
19 advisory council shall submit a report to the governor, the  
20 general assembly, the department of agriculture and land  
21 stewardship, the department of natural resources, and the water  
22 resources coordinating council. The report shall include  
23 recommendations regarding all of the following:

24 *a.* Improving water quality and optimizing the costs of  
25 voluntarily achieving and maintaining water quality standards.

26 *b.* Creating economic incentives for voluntary nonpoint  
27 source load reductions, point source discharge reductions  
28 beyond those required by the federal Water Pollution Control  
29 Act, implementation of pollution prevention programs, wetland  
30 restoration and creation, and the development of emerging  
31 pollution control technologies.

32 *c.* Facilitating the implementation of total maximum daily  
33 loads, urban storm water control programs, and nonpoint source  
34 management practices required or authorized under the federal  
35 Water Pollution Control Act. This paragraph shall not be

1 construed to obviate the requirement to develop a total maximum  
2 daily load for waters that do not meet water quality standards  
3 as required by section 303(d) of the federal Water Pollution  
4 Control Act or to delay implementation of a total maximum daily  
5 load that has been approved by the department and the director.

6 *d.* Providing incentives, methods, and practices for the  
7 development of new and more accurate and reliable pollution  
8 control quantification protocols and procedures, including but  
9 not limited to development of policy based on information and  
10 data that is publicly available and that can be verified and  
11 evaluated.

12 *e.* Providing greater flexibility for broader public  
13 involvement through community-based, nonregulatory, and  
14 performance-driven watershed management planning.

15 *f.* Assigning responsibility for monitoring flood risk, flood  
16 mitigation, and coordination with federal agencies.

17 *g.* Involving cities, counties, and other local and regional  
18 public and private entities in watershed improvement.

19 4. Each year, the voting members of the advisory council  
20 shall designate one voting member as chairperson.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill establishes a watershed planning advisory council.

23 The bill requires, by December 1 of each year, the advisory  
24 council to report to the governor, the general assembly,  
25 the department of agriculture and land stewardship, the  
26 department of natural resources, and the water resources  
27 coordinating council its recommendations regarding improving  
28 water quality and optimizing the costs of voluntarily achieving  
29 and maintaining water quality standards; creating economic  
30 incentives for voluntary nonpoint source load reductions,  
31 point source discharge reductions beyond those required  
32 by the federal Water Pollution Control Act, implementation  
33 of pollution prevention programs, wetland restoration and  
34 creation, and the development of emerging pollution control  
35 technologies; facilitating the implementation of total maximum

1 daily loads, urban storm water control programs, and nonpoint  
2 source management practices required or authorized under the  
3 federal Water Pollution Control Act; providing incentives,  
4 methods, and practices for the development of new and more  
5 accurate and reliable pollution control quantification  
6 protocols and procedures; providing greater flexibility  
7 for broader public involvement through community-based,  
8 nonregulatory, and performance-driven watershed management  
9 planning; assigning responsibility for monitoring flood risk,  
10 flood mitigation, and coordination with federal agencies; and  
11 involving cities, counties, and other local and regional public  
12 and private entities in watershed improvement.